

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08177 161128Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----161129Z 017011 /20

O R 161040Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5063

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8177

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (STONE, RICHARD)

SUBJ: CODEL STONE: REQUEST TO TRAVEL FROM CAIRO TO TEL AVIV

VIA SFM

REF STATE 108051 (NOTAL)

1. I TALKED TO FAHMY FRIDAY EVENING ABOUT CODEL STONE'S INTEREST IN TRAVELLING FROM CAIRO TO TEL AVIV VIA SFM. FAHMY WAS FORCEFULLY NEGATIVE. SFM, HE STATED, IS FOR EARLY WARNING PURPOSES: IT IS NOT INTENDED FACILITATE OPEN BRIDGES DESIRES OF ISRAELI GOVT. SFM HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SUCH POLITICAL MATTERS. THE SEN, FAHMY CONTENDED, DOUBTLESS WISHES TO BE ABLE TO SAY IN TEL AVIV THAT HE WAS THE FIRST AMERICAN WHO HAD TRANSITED THAT WAY AND HAD THEREBY FURTHERED THE OPEN BRIDGES OBJECTIVE. HOWEVER MUCH RESPECT HE HAS FOR SEN STONE, WHOM HE HAD MET IN WASHINGTON, FAHMY INSISTED THAT GOE CANNOT AGREE TO ALLOW SUCH DIRECT TRANSIT IN EITHER DIRECTION.

2. I POINTED OUT TO FAHMY THAT SEN STONE HAD WORDKED VIGOROUSLY FOR SENATE APPROVAL FOR CREATION SFM. THE SENATOR WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO DELIVER FIRST-HAND REPORT OF SFM'S SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS. MOREOVER, AS FAHMY CERTAINLY KNEW, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SENATOR HAS BEEN STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF CURRENT HIGH LEVEL OF ECONOMIC AID TO EGYPT. I ASKED THAT FAHMY RECONSIDER MATTER IN THE LIGHT OF ALL OF THESE FACTORS.

3. FAHMY REMAINED ADAMANTLY NEGATIVE. WHILE HE APPRECIATED SENATOR'S SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT, FAHMY INSISTED THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH POLITICAL ASPECTS OF

ARAB/ISRAELI ISSUE. THE SENATOR IS OF COURSE WELCOME TO VISIT SFM FROM EGYPT. IF HE DOES SO, GOE MUST INSIST THAT HE RETURN THROUGH CAIRO. ALLUDING TO THE FACT THAT SEN STONE HAD SUPPORTED SFM CONCEPT, FAHMY NOTED THAT SFM WAS AS MUCH AND PERHAPS MORE IN ISREALI AS IN ARAB INTERESTS. SFM WAS AFTER ALL PERES' SOLE CONTRIBUTION TO SINAI II. SFM, HE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED, IS FOR EARLY WARNING PURPOSES: NOT FOR OPEN BRIDGES.

3. I POINTED OUT TO FAHMY THAT THE SENATOR WOULD LIKE TO IVISIT SFM AND THAT TRANSIT FROM THERE TO TEL AVIV WOULD BE MUCH MORE CONVENIENT THAN HAVING TO COME BACK THROUGH CAIRO. WHILE RECOGNIZING GOE CONCERN, I URGED THAT FAHMY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THIS SIMPLE CONVENIENCE FACTOR AND MAKE AN EXCEPTION TO ITS POLICY IN THE CASE OF THE SENATOR AND HIS PARTY. FAHMY WOULD HAVE NONE OF IT. HE RECOGNIZED CONVENIENCE ASPECT, BUT INSISTED THAT GOE WILL NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AGREE TO USE OF SFM AS A GATEWAY TO ISRAEL. SFM'S SOLE FUNCTION IS MILITARY WARNING, NOT TRANSIIT OF TOURISTS. WE WENT ROUND AND ROUND ON THIS FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES, BUT FAHMY WOULD NOT BUDGE.

4. COMMENT: HAVE DON THE BEST I CAN TO GET GOE AGREEMENT TO DIRECT TRANSIST, BUT RESULTS WERE PREDICTABLE. GOE HAS STRONG VIEWS ABOUT ISRAELI DEMAND FOR OPEN BRIDGES AND IS INSISTENT THAT SFM NOT BE ALLOWED TO SERVE THIS PURPOSE. I REGRET GOE POSITION, BUT THERE IT IS. PLEASE INFORM SEN STONE OF FAHMY'S REACTION. IF HE STILL WISHES VISIT SFM, WE COULD PROBABLY ARRANGE ROUND TRIP FROM CAIRO ON FRIDAY, JUNE 3. ALTERNATIVELY, THE SENATOR MAY PREFER TO VISIT IT
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FROM ISRAEL.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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